

team in America, and he remained a competitive runner most of his life. At one point, I understand, he held the world record for the 100-yard dash among 55-year-olds. As a 53-year-old runner who is not likely to break any speed records soon, I find that amazing. I also find it a little ironic—because in politics, Alan Cranston was no sprinter. He was a marathon runner.

When Alan Cranston signed on to a cause, it was for life. As a reporter in Europe in 1936, he was among the first to recognize the evil of fascism for what it was. He chronicled the rise of Hitler and Mussolini. When he discovered that Hitler had authorized the export of a sanitized copy of *Mein Kampf* to America, he acquired a copy of the German text and had it translated accurately, with all its hideous lies restored. He sold copies for 10 cents—thus giving America some of its true glimpses into the real Hitler.

A copyright infringement lawsuit brought by Hitler himself eventually forced Alan Cranston to stop selling copies of *Mein Kampf* in America. But nothing could ever stop him from speaking out against oppressors of freedom and human dignity.

In 1946, Alan Cranston met Albert Einstein, who persuaded him that nuclear weapons must be banned or they will destroy the human race. From that day until he died, Alan Cranston was a tireless champion in the effort to monitor nuclear arms and reduce their use.

During his years here in the Senate, he also championed an array of other noble causes—from the environment, to civil rights, to the men and women who serve in our nation's military.

Literally and figuratively, Alan Cranston was a towering figure in this Senate for nearly a quarter of a century. He was an example to many of us and to me personally. I am proud to say he was also a friend.

With some sadness, and with gratitude for his lifetime of service to our nation, I join my colleagues in honoring the memory of Alan Cranston and conveying our deep regrets to his family—especially his sister Ruth, his son Kim, and his granddaughter—as well as his many friends across this country and around the world. Alan Cranston was loved in this Senate, and he will be deeply missed.

TRIBUTE TO CHERYL FLETCHER

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize the efforts of Cheryl Fletcher for her outstanding service. Today, Cheryl is retiring after more than 21 years of service to me, the U.S. Senate and the people of Oklahoma.

Cheryl has been with me since the beginning of my U.S. Senate career.

She joined my first U.S. Senate campaign in 1980. After winning, I asked her to establish an office in my home-

town—Ponca City. Before joining my staff, she worked as director of the Ponca City United Way.

During the last 21 years, Cheryl has served as the State Director, coordinating my schedule in Oklahoma and working as my liaison for northern Oklahoma. She has worked diligently for the people of Alfalfa, Grant, Kay, Washington, Osage, Pawnee, Payne, Noble, Major and Garfield counties. She's been Ponca City's Outstanding Citizen of the Year and an active member of the Chamber of Commerce.

My colleagues can appreciate the tight time schedules we keep, and Cheryl is one of the best when it comes to keeping me on time. I remember late one night, we were going back to Ponca from a meeting in Woodward. Cheryl was driving and flew right past a stop sign. Needless to say, my heart skipped a beat. Rain storms, snow storms, even perfect weather, Cheryl was determined to get us there on time.

Her service, dedication and hard work have always been an asset to me and all Oklahomans. I and the entire State of Oklahoma will miss her knowledge and experience. It has been my privilege and pleasure to work with her these years.

Few believed a young businessman from Ponca City could be a U.S. Senator. Cheryl believed and worked tirelessly to convince them, and occasionally me, that they were wrong.

Today, in Ponca City, Pioneer Bank, Home National Bank, Conoco, and Evans and Associates is hosting a reception in her honor. I know the place will be packed and I'm sorry I can't be there to personally recognize her on this special day.

I want to congratulate Cheryl, who is a loyal friend and employee, and thank her for 21 years of hard work. I wish her all the best.

PRESIDENT BUSH'S BUDGET

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, last night I listened with great interest as President Bush outlined his budget proposal. It was a strong speech, and I commend the President for his encouraging comments on education, as well as his kind words for our good friend Congressman JOE MOAKLEY. But our challenge now is to produce a realistic budget. As the President describes it, the surplus is so big that the American people can now have it all—huge tax cuts for everyone, increased spending on national priorities, and elimination of the national debt.

I fully agree with President Bush that budgets are fundamentally about our values and priorities, but I strongly disagree with him on what those priorities should be. While President Bush made the benefits of his plan appear real and the costs painless, I think the American people correctly suspect that

his words sound too good to be true. Just as there's no such thing as a free lunch, there's no such thing as a free \$2 trillion tax cut.

I support a substantial tax cut, but not one that is so large that it crowds out continued debt reduction and investment in national priorities like education, health care, and worker training and protection efforts. Not one that is so large that it jeopardizes Medicare and Social Security.

This budget claims to provide massive tax cuts and maximize reduction of the national debt and keep our commitments under Social Security and Medicare and make the investments needed to keep the nation strong. It makes five claims that are arithmetically impossible. The numbers simply do not add up.

First, this budget argues that the nation can afford a \$2 trillion tax cut right now. The White House claims that its proposed \$1.6 trillion tax cut "uses only one fourth of the budget surplus." This is highly misleading. Make no mistake about it—President Bush's tax cut really consumes about 90% of the available budget surplus.

The tax cut now sought by the Administration would consume well over \$2 trillion of the budget surplus. When President Bush cites the \$1.6 trillion figure, he neglects the increased cost of interest on the larger national debt caused by the tax cut, and he ignores the added cost of his plan to make the tax cut retroactive.

We must be clear about the real size of the surplus. While the Congressional Budget Office projects that the federal government will collect \$5.6 trillion more than it spends over the next ten years, only \$2.7 trillion of this amount can properly be called a "surplus." The other \$2.9 trillion is money that workers deposit with the government so they'll be protected by Social Security and Medicare when they retire. Workers pay this \$2.9 trillion in payroll taxes for specific retirement and medical benefits. It is wrong to include money from workers' Social Security and Medicare payroll taxes in the same pot used to finance the Administration's income tax and estate tax cuts.

Thus, at most \$2.7 trillion in available surplus is projected over the next ten years. Even the Congressional Budget Office acknowledges the great uncertainty of its own surplus estimate. CBO itself recognizes that a small reduction in economy's growth would reduce its surplus estimates by trillions of dollars. Any responsible budget would reserve a significant share of the projected surplus in case the projections prove too optimistic. Without such a reserve, any shortfall could return the nation to large deficits and raids on the Social Security Trust Fund. Yet the Administration's budget commits every last dollar of the projected on-budget surplus and more,